

# INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 303

Herbert S. Eisenberg  
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION



*High Expectations, Children First, No Excuses!*

Shanesha White-Bailey, Principal

Durant Dakota, Assistant Principal  
Evan Rabinowitz, Assistant Principal  
Anna Yusufova, Assistant Principal

## Cell Phone Policy 2025-2026

September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**As part of the New York State Law mandating distraction-free schools, prohibiting the use of internet-enabled devices by students (cell phones, apple devices, smart watches etc..) during the day anywhere on school grounds, we will continue making our school a personal electronics-free space to improve teaching and learning using a program called Yondr.**

Yondr has been implemented in thousands of schools across 27 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones are of great utility. We have also found that learning and student mental health improve drastically when students are fully present with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone or small electronic device. Every student will secure their phone and/or electronics in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. **Students will maintain possession of their devices and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day.** Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

In an annual survey of over 1,200 of schools that implemented the Yondr program:

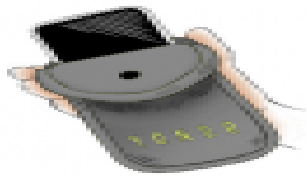
- 86% saw a positive impact in student safety and wellness
- 84% saw a positive change in student engagement
- 72% saw a positive change in student behavior
- 68% saw a positive change in academic performance

If you have any questions about I.S. 303's adherence to New York State Law, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 718-996-0100 ext. 1232. We will also be holding an open discussion about the use of Yondr during our first PTA meeting of the school year which will take place on

If there is an emergency at any time during the school day and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to Doris Reyes, Parent Coordinator at 718-996-0100 ext.1202 or 929-549-3274.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the Yondr Program at our school in accordance with New York State Law.

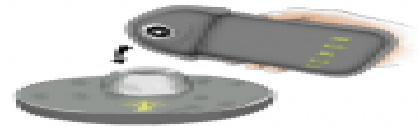
Sincerely,  
Shanesha Bailey  
Principal



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned pouch.



Students close and secure their pouch, Keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school students tap their pouch on a BASE to retrieve their Phone.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What if I want to reach my child during the school day?**

We want our students to be fully engaged in their learning. If you have an emergency and need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the Main Office at 718-996-0100 ext. 1232 or our Parent Coordinator Doris Reyes at 929-549-3274.

#### **What if my child needs to reach the parent during the school day?**

Should a student need to contact his/her parent, calls can be made from the following offices: guidance counselor, social worker, grade assistant principal, main office

#### **What if there is a school emergency?**

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

#### **Will my student's phone be safe?**

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is property of I.S. 303. If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:

- If a student is caught using their cell phone, the Parent/Guardian must come to the school and pick up their child's phone
- AND/OR Consequences may include: in school or after school Detention, demerit issued, replacement fee

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

### **STUDENT PHONE and INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICE POLICY & GUIDELINES**

**As per New York State Law, phones or any other personal internet-enabled devices are not to be used during school. Every student will be assigned a personal Yondr Pouch. While the Yondr Pouch is considered school property, it is each student's responsibility to bring their Pouch with them to school every day and keep it in good working condition.**

#### **DAILY PROCESS**

As students arrive at school, they will:

- 1) Turn their phone off or put it on airplane mode.

- 2) Place their phone and other personal internet-enabled devices inside their pouch and secure it in the presence of school staff.
- 3) Store their pouch in their backpack for the day.
- 4) Students who fail to bring their pouch will have their phone held in the main office until the end of the school day.

At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouch, remove their phone and put their pouch in their backpack. Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day.

\*\*\*Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the Main Office.

## **VIOLATIONS**

### **Pouch Damage / Lost Pouch / Using Phone During School**

If a student damages their pouch or is caught using their phone, Administration will collect the student's pouch/phone and call home.

Repercussions for damaged pouches or unauthorized phone use will include:

- **Disciplinary Responses following New York's Citywide Behavior Expectations for Students**
- **Receive a Demerit for each infraction**
- **\$30 fee for a replacement pouch**

Examples of pouch damage include:

- Bent pin
- Ripped fabric
- Deep scratches on the lock exterior+ green ring
- Intentional pen marks on the inside of the pouch
- Pin and button not fully recessing due to pin damage

### **Forgotten Pouches**

**If a student forgets their pouch, their phone will be collected and Administration will call home to remind the Parent of the policy. The phone will be returned to the student at dismissal.**

**If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost. Refer to the Lost Pouch policy above**

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**Please sign and return the STUDENT CELL PHONE AGREEMENT POLICY**

**By signing below, I agree to act responsibly by following the above cell phone policy of Herbert S. Esienberg I. S 303, for the 2025 - 2026 School Year**

Print Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_